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SIN AND 'SECURITY'

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Washington, June 13—The State Dept. is currently giving official "sin" a broad, new interpretation.

It now goes beyond communism and homosexuality to suspected drunkenness, adolescent indiscretions, "loose" talking and a free-wheeling category known as "moral turpitude" so demoralizing that the mere threat of such a charge has forced a number of government employees to resign.

The secret security purges conducted in this one-industry town, where everyone works for the government or lives off it indirectly, have produced an almost daily crop of horror stories comparable to the Marcelle Henry case, revealed earlier this week by The Post.

Every agency is suffering budget cuts, but government employees are accustomed to waging this kind of in-fighting for survival. The State Dept., however, carries the process of disintegration by means of security purges to unique lengths.

Moreover, Secretary of State Dulles has given considerable impetus to this behind-the-scenes drive by casting doubt on his subordinates in his welcoming speech, when he called for "positive loyalty to the new administration."

Dulles does not worry much about the day-to-day running of his department. He has, moreover, appointed as security officer Scott McLeod, an agent of the McCarthy-Bridges-McCarran cabal in the Senate.

McLeod nominally is under the supervision of Undersecretary Donald Lourie, formerly of Quaker Oats Co., who is more inexperienced than Dulles and scarcely more interested in the welfare of individual employees.

DULLES HIMSELF STEPS IN
only in cases of the utmost importance, such as the struggle to confirm Ambassador Bohlen. In fact, therefore, McLeod has a free hand and acts as a political commissar, enforcing his own standards of security and ideological purity much as a political commissar in the Soviet Army

would act independently of the regular generals.

McLeod is out to make a record for himself. Making a record means firing large numbers of employees on security grounds. He has carte blanche not only to oust spies and proved associates of Communist enterprises but also persons suspected of the new "sin."

All these dismissals come under the heading of security. They are all conducted in secrecy. The only divisive appeal beyond McLeod is to Dulles, who flashes McLeod a green light.

"Moral turpitude" is one of McLeod's favorite avenues of attack because the accusation is vague, frightening and hard to refute.

There are not many members of the State Dept. staff who will fight such a smear as has Marcelle Henry, the Voice of America reporter and writer who was discharged after a peephole probe and a nudge or two from Sen. McCarthy.

IN THE COUNTRY AT LARGE

It is commonly thought that these charges are brought only against male employees for homosexuality. This is no longer true.

Here are two stories involving women working at the State

One concerns a woman who became pregnant by her future husband a few months before their marriage. The couple has been happily married for 15 years and has three children. This youthful indiscretion has now been dug up by government sleuths and is the basis of a charge of "moral turpitude" making her unfit to work for the State Dept.

Another woman married a divorced man seven years ago. His divorce from his first wife was a messy public affair and he remarried shortly before his divorce became final. This legal technicality casts some doubt over the status of the marriage and has become grounds for firing his wife. Both employees, it might be added, held relatively unimportant administrative jobs.

The cases involving men of course persist. One 36-year-old man was involved in a minor homosexual affair when he was 16. His parents learned of it and through prolonged psychiatric treatment the problem was worked out. The case was successfully kept quiet and the man is now a mature, happily-married father. In some way unknown to him, the government recently got wind of his adolescent troubles of 20 years ago and has now used it as grounds for dismissal.

McLEOD TAKES A RUTHLESS
line with his alleged suspects. This is no judicial procedure he conducts.

"Confess, you know we have the goods on you," and "You'd better resign or these serious charges may become public" are the kind of remarks he and his assistants reportedly make in their cross-examination.

One of the more striking stories is one which unexpectedly had a happy ending — at least for the time being.

An American doctor working for Point Four in Burma was suddenly ordered home without explanation. Arriving in Washington, he was put on indefinite annual leave. His immediate superiors were baffled. McLeod refused to see him. No one would give him an explanation.

He talked to his Congressman, who wrote Dulles, who forwarded the letter to McLeod, who forwarded it to one of his assistants. Still no explanation.

He saw one of his Senators, a Republican, who also wrote Dulles, who forwarded the letter to McLeod, who turned it over to an assistant. Again no action and no explanation.

Meanwhile, it occurred to the doctor what might be the source of his difficulty. While in China in 1944, he had caused a minor uproar by accusing a Chinese general of black marketeering in U. S. medical supplies. The general was mildly disciplined but counter-attacked by spreading the rumor the doctor was a homosexual.

This baseless accusation, discredited at the time by Army Intelligence, had found its way nine years later into State Dept. files. The general, incidentally, is now high in Chiang's regime on Formosa.

ONE DAY THE DOCTOR BY
chance met CIA Director Allen Dulles, the brother of the Secretary of State. He knew him slightly and told him his story.

This Dulles was shocked. He took the case up with his brother. Secretary Dulles, in exasperation, sent an angry memo to McLeod telling him to settle the blankety-blank case once for all because he was tired of being pestered about it.

McLeod, who acted throughout his case in an unusually chary manner, again referred it to one of his assistants. This agent gave the doctor an interview. It lasted more than an hour and became stormy when he tried unsuccessfully to get the doctor to resign.

At the end of the interview, he suddenly relented and said he would mark the case closed. The doctor was ordered back to his post in Burma.

He presumably will run across nothing in that far-off country so primitive that he might be embarrassed by the jungle of Washington.